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Voluntary Public

Date: 5/13/2013

GAIN Report Number: TW13018

Taiwan

Post: Taipei

Accessing Taiwan's Growing Pet Food Market

Report Categories:

Product Brief

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Report Highlights:

Exporting pet food to Taiwan can be challenging. Not only are there unscientific barriers to imports of ruminant-based products, Taiwan's application and approval process for other products can be complicated. Still, U.S. pet food exports to Taiwan are trending upward, reaching a record US\$36.4 million in 2012. The aim of this report is to clarify Taiwan's pet food regulations and barriers to entry to help U.S. exporters succeed in this vibrant and growing market.

General Information:

Section I. Scope

Throughout this report, the term "pet food" refers specifically to product marketed for domesticated dogs and cats. Livestock feed or pet food meant for animals other than dogs or cats is beyond the scope of this report. However, information regarding import requirements for such products can be found in the Taiwan Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine's (BAPHIQ) *Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Animal Feed Preparations* regulation:

http://www.baphiq.gov.tw/admin/upload/twgov_file_201204021044165.pdf

Please contact the Office of Agricultural Affairs or the Agricultural Trade Office at the American Institute in Taiwan for additional information regarding these products.

American Institute in Taipei
Office of Agricultural Affairs
AgTaipei@usda.gov
Tel: (886-2) 2162-2316

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Section II. General Information

Exporting pet food to Taiwan can be a challenging and cumbersome endeavor. Not only are there unscientific barriers to imports of ruminant-based products, Taiwan's application and approval process for other products can be complicated and difficult. Still, U.S. food exports to Taiwan are trending upward, reaching US\$36.4 million in 2012. The aim of this report is to identify and clarify Taiwan's pet food regulations, certificate requirements and barriers to entry to help U.S. exporters succeed in this vibrant and growing market.



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The biggest barrier to entry for U.S. pet food to Taiwan continues to be the lingering ban on ruminant products from countries determined by Taiwan's Council of Agriculture (COA) to be at risk for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). As a result of this ban, U.S.-origin pet food products with ruminant-derived ingredients are prohibited in Taiwan. In addition, U.S. facilities producing pet food with eligible animal origin ingredients may be subject to an extensive application process, including on-

site review and inspection conducted by BAPHIQ at the facility's expense. Please see Section VI of this report for further information regarding the facility approval process.

Section III. Taiwan Pet Food Regulations and Oversight

BAPHIQ is the regulatory authority overseeing dog and cat food imports. BAPHIQ's pet food import requirements are detailed in the regulation *Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Dog and Cat Food*, which can be found at the following link and in Appendix A of this report:

http://www.baphiq.gov.tw/admin/upload/twgov_file_201107262350302.pdf

In June 2012, the USDA commented on draft language submitted by BAPHIQ to the World Trade Organization (WTO) that would amend Taiwan's current dog and cat food import regulations. The USDA sought clarification on the proposed language and emphasized the importance of abiding by international trade recommendations and established science. While U.S. authorities are optimistic that the proposed changes could expand market access for U.S.-origin dog and cat food, specifically ruminant-based products, at the time of this report's publication, Taiwan had yet to respond to the U.S. comments or issue new regulations.

Section IV. Permitted Products

The following dog and cat food products are permitted for export to Taiwan:

- Dog and cat foods containing no animal-origin ingredients
- Dog and cat foods containing no animal-origin ingredients other than milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate, and/or collagen
- Pet chews containing hides only (including poultry skin); i.e. no other animal-origin ingredients except milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate, and/or collagen

Manufacturers of pet food products that fall within the preceding categories can find information regarding Taiwan's import requirements and certification for such products at the following USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_taiwan_dog_cat_food.shtml

Manufacturers of these exempted products do not need to have their facilities individually inspected and approved by BAPHIQ authorities.

Section V. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Trade Barriers

As noted, Taiwan severely limits exports of U.S. pet food products due to claimed SPS concerns. Restrictions related to BSE are the most problematic. An overview of Taiwan's SPS trade barriers can be found at the following APHIS website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/tw_ba.pdf

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

Taiwan's COA considers the United States to be affected by BSE. As a result, imports of many U.S. ruminant-origin pet food ingredients are prohibited, including protein free tallow, blood and blood products and deboned skeletal muscle meat from animals less than 30 months of age. Consistent with Section IV of this report, milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate, and/or collagen are exempt from this restriction -- in other words, these ingredients or products that contain these ingredients are permitted for import.

Taiwan's BSE concerns extend beyond the product itself. Taiwan also prohibits animal-origin pet food sourced from a facility handling any ruminant materials (except dairy) from countries determined by the COA to have had previous incidents of BSE, including the United States.

Highly Pathogenic Notifiable Avian Influenza (HPNAI) and Newcastle Disease (ND)

At time of this report's publication, no U.S. states are determined by Taiwan to be infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease. However, exporters should consult the APHIS-National Center for Import and Export before shipping to Taiwan.

National Center for Import and Export (NCIE)

Call Center: 301-851-3300, Option #6 - Animal products - Export

Fax Number: 301-734-8226

AskNCIE.Products@aphis.usda.gov

Taiwan has lifted the restrictions on pet food and any other animal products produced in a state where H5/H7 low pathogenicity notifiable avian influenza (LPNAI) has been reported since June 11, 2009.

Restrictions regarding HPNAI are as follows:

1. **Product Manufactured in State Affected by HPNAI or ND:** Pet food products containing poultry-origin ingredients and manufactured in a state affected by HPNAI or ND are allowed to enter Taiwan only after undergoing an approved additional heat treatment with a core temperature minimum of 70°C for at least 30 minutes.
1. **Product Transshipped through Affected HPNAI or ND States:** Pet foods manufactured in states unaffected by HPNAI or ND and packed in sealed containers are allowed to transit affected states, but imports must be accompanied by either a bill of lading or an export certificate for animal products indicating the container seal numbers.

Canned and other hermetically sealed products (e.g., hermetically sealed pouches) are excluded from this restriction.

Section VI. Facility Approval

As previously mentioned, only facilities that export product containing non-exempt ingredients (i.e.

those not listed in Section IV) are required to apply for individual facility inspection. As all U.S. ruminant-origin products (excluding dairy products) are banned, this section is specifically relevant for pork and poultry-origin pet food manufacturers interested in the Taiwan market.

Currently, no formal agreement exists between the United States and Taiwan regarding the approval process for pet food imports. Because there is no formal agreement, U.S. government agencies' (i.e. USDA) involvement in facility inspection and approval is limited. The American Pet Food Institute, however, acts as an intermediary and may assist in the application and inspection process. U.S. exporters interested in receiving Taiwan facility approval are advised to contact:

Pet Food Institute (PFI)
Phone: 202-367-1120
Fax: 202-367-2120
info@petfoodinstitute.org

Application information for companies interested in exporting pet food to Taiwan is available at the following BAPHIQ webpage:

http://www.baphiq.gov.tw/admin/upload/twgov_file_201107262350303.pdf

As BAPHIQ does not accept applications directly from exporters or manufacturers, applicants should work with PFI to gather the relevant documentation. Completed applications should be forwarded to AIT APHIS, which will forward to appropriate BAPHIQ officials.

American Institute in Taipei
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AgTaipei@usda.gov
Tel: (8862) 2162-2216

The physical inspection of the facility will be conducted at the expense of the individual company with costs including (but not limited to) transportation, lodging, meals and incidentals for the BAPHIQ and COA employees.

Facility approval is not transferable between different facilities owned/operated by the same company.

Section VII. Certification

APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) will endorse export certifications for U.S.-origin dog and cat food to Taiwan from facilities approved by BAPHIQ. Since facility approvals are granted by BAPHIQ, not APHIS/VS, the VS Area Office may not be aware of any facility-specific restrictions that might exist. It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that all shipments meet Taiwan's requirements or risk rejection of the shipment.

The certification required for U.S.-origin pet food exports to Taiwan depends on the pet food ingredients. Below is a brief summary of the certificate requirements broken down by product ingredient:

- Dog and cat food containing no animal origin ingredients: Required health certificate language can

be found at the following APHIS weblink. A supplementary certificate (also noted on APHIS webpage) may be necessary if the labels on the individual product packages do not contain the exact company name and manufacturing facility.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_taiwan_dog_cat_food.shtml

- Dog and cat food containing no animal origin ingredients other than those originating from milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate and/or collagen: While technically these products require no additional certification or attestation, APHIS recommends product be accompanied with the APHIS VS 16-4 form, *Export Certificate for Animal Products*. Language to be included on the certificate is detailed on the following APHIS website.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/tw_pf_et.pdf

- Dog and cat food containing animal-origin ingredients other than those originating from milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate and/or collagen: Again, only facilities approved by BAPHIQ are allowed to export product to Taiwan. The first APHIS link below includes general information for facilities/companies interested in exporting such products to Taiwan. Please note that these products are not exported under the APHIS VS 16-4 certificate. Instead, the appropriate documents to use will depend on whether the shipment includes products manufactured by only one approved manufacturing facility or the shipment includes products manufactured by two or more approved facilities. The second link below will direct users to an APHIS page where exact certificate requirements and language are outlined:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/tw_gi_dcf.pdf

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/product_taiwan_animal_origin.shtml

- Pet chews containing hides but no other animal origin ingredients other than those originating from milk, fish, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate and/or collagen: Product should be accompanied by an APHIS VS 16-4 certificate with the language detailed in the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/tw_pt_c.pdf

APPENDIX A - BAPHIQ's Dog and Cat Food Import Regulation

Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Dog and Cat Food

Promulgated by Council of Agriculture on August 9, 2001
Amended by Council of Agriculture on April 1, 2004

Article 1

The “dog and cat food” refers to products containing ingredients that were derived from cloven-hoofed animals (except dairy products) or poultry and destined exclusively for dog and cat food.

Article 2

Pursuant to Article 33 of the Statute for Prevention and Control of Infectious Animal Diseases, the country (or area) free from or infected with foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, Newcastle disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy refers to a country that has been or has not yet been recognized by the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan as being free from foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, Newcastle disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Article 3

To import dog and cat food containing ingredients which were derived from cloven-hoofed animals from a country (or area) free from foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia, African swine fever or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or to import dog and cat food containing ingredients which were derived from poultry from a country (or area) free from Newcastle disease and highly pathogenic avian influenza, the product shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The manufacturing plant shall be approved by the competent authority of the exporting country only for producing or manufacturing dog and cat food.
2. The animal ingredients derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy are not coming from a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
3. A certificate issued by the competent quarantine authority of the exporting country in English, Chinese or both Chinese and English accompanying with each consignment is required. The certificate shall state the following:

The names and addresses of the importer, exporter and the manufacturer.

The name, quantity, weight and manufacture date of the product.

Species of animal(s) used for the animal-based ingredients in the product.

The animal ingredients derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy are not coming from a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The date, place and name of the authority issuing the certificate, the official stamp of the issuing authority, and the name and signature of the certifying veterinarian officer.

Article 4

To import dog and cat food containing ingredients derived from cloven-hoofed animal from a country (or area) infected with foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia or African swine fever, or to import dog and cat food containing ingredients derived from poultry from a

country (or area) infected with Newcastle disease or highly pathogenic avian influenza, the product shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The manufacturing plant shall be approved by the competent authority of the exporting country for producing or manufacturing dog and cat food.
2. The animal ingredients derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy are not coming from a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
3. The product shall be treated with heat in the production process. The heat treatment shall comply with one of the following requirements:

Heat-treated with the core of the product reaching a temperature of 70°C or more for at least 30 minutes.
Heated-treated by another heating method that has been approved by the exporting country and has equal effect as the method stipulated in *point a.* of this item to assure the complete destruction of pathogens.

4. Effective measures were taken to prevent the products from being contaminated by pathogens of contagious animal diseases after heat treatment.
5. The product is packed in a new container.
6. The manufacturer shall record the animal species, origin, the country of origin, lot number, date of arrival and quantity of the animal-based ingredients, and the manufacturing date, temperature of heat treatment of the products. If the raw material was imported, the certificate number should be recorded. The record shall be kept for a period of no less than two years.
7. The competent quarantine authority of the exporting country shall submit an application to the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) of the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan for approval of manufacturers that intend to export their products to Taiwan. The BAPHIQ will then conduct an on-site inspection, and all necessary expenses for the inspection shall be borne by the exporting country.
8. To import product, a certificate issued by the competent quarantine authority of the exporting country in English, Chinese or both Chinese and English must accompany each consignment. The certificate shall state the following:

The names and addresses of the importer, exporter and the manufacturer.

The name, quantity, weight and manufacture date of the products.

Species of animal(s) used for the animal-based ingredients in the product.

The animal ingredients derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy are not coming from a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The product has undergone heat treatment, including the temperature and time duration applied in the heat treatment process.

The product has never been contaminated by pathogens of contagious animal diseases during the manufacturing and packing process.

The date, place and name of the authority issuing the certificate, the official stamp of the issuing authority, and the name and signature of the certifying veterinarian officer.

9. If the exporting country is a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, it shall also comply with Article 5 as stipulated in this requirement.

Article 5

To import dog and cat food from a country infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the product shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The manufacturing plant shall be approved by the competent authority of the exporting country only for producing or manufacturing dog and cat food. If the manufacturing plant engages in the processing or production of raw materials derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the competent quarantine authority of the exporting country shall verify that the raw materials come from a country free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy and were not contaminated by the pathogen of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
2. If the raw materials contained in the product were derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the quarantine competent authority of the exporting country shall verify that the raw materials come from a country free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy and were not contaminated by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy pathogen in manufacturing and processing of the products.
3. The product is packed in a new container.
4. The manufacturer shall record the animal species, origin, the country of origin, lot number, date of arrival and quantity of the animal-based ingredients, and the manufacturing date, temperature of heat treatment the products. If the raw material was imported, the certificate number must be recorded. The record shall be kept for a period of no less than two years.
5. The quarantine competent authority of the exporting country shall submit an application to the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) of the Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan for approval of manufacturers which intend to export their products to Taiwan. The BAPHIQ will then conduct an on-site inspection, and all necessary expenses for the inspection shall be borne by the exporting country.
6. To import the product, a certificate issued by the competent quarantine authority of the exporting country in English, Chinese or both Chinese and English must accompany each consignment. The certificate shall state the following:

The names and addresses of the importer, exporter and manufacturer.

The name, quantity, weight and manufacture date of the products.

Species of animal(s) used for the animal-based ingredients in the product.

The raw materials contained in the products derived from cattle, sheep, goat or other animals that are susceptible to bovine spongiform encephalopathy come from a country free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy, including the country name.

The product was not contaminated by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy pathogen in the raw material or during the manufacturing and processing of the product.

The date, place and name of the authority issuing the certificate, the official stamp of the issuing authority, and the name and signature of the certifying veterinarian officer.

7. If the exporting country is infected with foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, Newcastle disease or highly pathogenic avian influenza, imports shall also comply with Article 4 as stipulated in these requirements.

Article 6

To import dog and cat food processed by a “high-temperature disinfecting canning” procedure, except those coming from a bovine spongiform encephalopathy infected country, the product shall comply with item (1) to item (3) of Article 3 as stipulated in this requirements document.